

## Wisconsin Honey Production Down 26 Percent

Honey production in Wisconsin during 1999 totaled 6.00 million pounds, down 26 percent from the 8.10 million pounds produced in 1998. There were 80,000 honey producing colonies in Wisconsin with an average yield of 75 pounds per colony in 1999, compared with 89,000 colonies in 1998 and a yield of 91 pounds per colony. Wisconsin moved from seventh place in the nation for honey production to ninth place. The number of colonies does not include producers with less than five colonies, or producers who didn't harvest honey from the hive.

Producers held 4.56 million pounds of honey in stocks on December 15, 1999, which was 13 percent less than the 5.26 million pounds held on December 15, 1998.

The value of Wisconsin's 1999 honey crop was \$4.08 million, down 30 percent from last year's \$5.83 million. Prices averaged 68 cents per pound, down 4 cents per pound from 1998.

Nationally, honey production in 1999 totaled 205 million pounds, down 7 percent from 1998. There were 2.69 million colonies producing honey in 1999, up 2 percent from 1998. Yield per colony averaged 76.3 pounds, down 7.4 pounds from the 83.7 pounds in 1998. Colonies which produced in more than one state were counted in each state, and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Producer honey stocks totaled 79.4 million pounds on December 15, 1999, down 2 percent from a year earlier.

Prices for the 1999 crop averaged 59.9 cents per pound, down from the 65.5 cent average for 1998. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and coops. At the state level, prices reflect the portions of honey sold retail, coop and private. At the U.S. level, prices for each color are derived by weighting quantities sold for each marketing channel. Coop and private prices were lower for all color classes in 1999.

## Honey Production

| State      | No. of colonies |       | Production  |         | Average price |      | Honey stocks Dec. 15 1/ |        |
|------------|-----------------|-------|-------------|---------|---------------|------|-------------------------|--------|
|            | 1998            | 1999  | 1998        | 1999    | 1998          | 1999 | 1998                    | 1999   |
|            | Thousands       |       | Thous. lbs. |         | Cents per lb. |      | Thous. lbs.             |        |
| Wisconsin  | 89              | 80    | 8,099       | 6,000   | 72            | 68   | 5,264                   | 4,560  |
| Arizona    | 55              | 52    | 3,300       | 3,224   | 64            | 62   | 1,485                   | 1,548  |
| Arkansas   | 53              | 52    | 3,445       | 4,628   | 59            | 53   | 1,688                   | 2,592  |
| California | 450             | 505   | 37,350      | 30,300  | 62            | 53   | 12,326                  | 10,302 |
| Colorado   | 27              | 27    | 1,944       | 2,052   | 70            | 68   | 1,594                   | 1,436  |
| Florida    | 230             | 228   | 22,540      | 23,256  | 64            | 53   | 4,508                   | 4,186  |
| Georgia    | 75              | 65    | 4,200       | 3,315   | 69            | 64   | 307                     | 497    |
| Idaho      | 120             | 120   | 6,000       | 5,760   | 65            | 59   | 2,220                   | 3,110  |
| Iowa       | 50              | 40    | 3,900       | 2,600   | 70            | 65   | 2,301                   | 2,028  |
| Louisiana  | 41              | 48    | 4,551       | 5,472   | 59            | 49   | 865                     | 821    |
| Michigan   | 80              | 73    | 6,800       | 6,205   | 66            | 66   | 3,672                   | 3,475  |
| Minnesota  | 140             | 145   | 11,060      | 11,890  | 65            | 61   | 2,765                   | 3,210  |
| Montana    | 115             | 122   | 14,030      | 8,540   | 64            | 60   | 5,472                   | 2,135  |
| Nebraska   | 64              | 58    | 4,480       | 4,466   | 86            | 61   | 2,240                   | 1,965  |
| New York   | 65              | 69    | 5,200       | 4,830   | 70            | 66   | 2,444                   | 2,077  |
| N. Dakota  | 230             | 255   | 29,440      | 26,775  | 63            | 59   | 8,832                   | 8,836  |
| Oregon     | 50              | 45    | 2,250       | 2,565   | 90            | 80   | 1,620                   | 2,026  |
| S. Dakota  | 225             | 224   | 21,375      | 23,296  | 64            | 60   | 10,901                  | 13,046 |
| Texas      | 91              | 108   | 7,007       | 8,748   | 62            | 64   | 1,612                   | 2,799  |
| Washington | 58              | 52    | 2,958       | 2,600   | 64            | 60   | 1,361                   | 1,170  |
| Wyoming    | 46              | 37    | 2,760       | 2,664   | 68            | 61   | 524                     | 746    |
| U.S.       | 2,633           | 2,688 | 220,316     | 205,228 | 65.5          | 59.9 | 80,808                  | 79,361 |

1/Stocks held by producers do not include stocks under loan. Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.

## WISCONSIN HONEY PRODUCTION AND YIELD

